

A Powerful Pair

When Roy & Lea Black arrived at a recent Bay Point Schools fundraiser at Cloisters on the Bay in Coconut Grove last month, one would assume that many of the guests attended to support one of the nation's premier trial lawyers and NBC legal analyst Roy Black. However, after following the eyes in the room, it becomes obvious that Roy's leading lady, Lea Black, has made her own mark in South Florida.

"When Lea calls and tells us to attend one of her charity functions – it's hard for us to turn her down," says one Bay Point Schools supporter, Jim Ferraro. "She's extremely passionate about fundraising for the kids and we'd feel like we're letting her down if we didn't give her our full support."

Lea found time to briefly chat with Luxe Living during her weekend trip in New York City with Roy. While Roy was meeting with Rush Limbaugh during the day, Lea strolled through the city with their 2 year-old son, R.J. (Roy, Jr.). "We're always just busy – working, traveling, taking care of R.J. and entertaining," says Lea.

Lately, Lea's day is generally filled with tasks toward building the Bay Point Schools' annual fundraising gala to be held on the grounds of the Black's one-acre home in Coral Gables. She says that it all started six years ago when a South Florida judge asked her to help raise money for the kids. "It just spiraled from that day... and then I started with my own group of people and built it up from there," says Lea.

As Lea says, she's a "working chair" which means she's not after the glamour and notoriety of the charity. She says, "It's all about raising funds for the kids. Just like a business.

I've worked my entire life running companies, heading up sales and marketing, even serving as a global product spokesperson on television ... and I've always worked. Now that I don't have work, I don't know any other way. I feel that if I am going to work, I want to do something to make a substantial community contribution."

Bay Point Schools Gala

January 23, 2004

Tickets:

\$500 per person and \$2,500 for VIP couples.

Bay Point Schools receives 100% of the dollars raised at the gala.

Founded in 1995 by Dr. Mary Louise Cole, the Bay Point Schools is an alternative boarding school that provides educational, vocational and therapeutic services to teenage boys whose behavior has led them to anti-social or criminal activity. Based on a program that teaches responsibility, accountability and respect for social norms, the results have been outstanding. Over 90% of Bay Point graduates have never committed another crime, and the Juvenile Justice Accountability Board has rated Bay Point the best program of its kind in the state of Florida.

For tickets to the January 23, 2004 Bay Point School's gala hosted by Roy & Lea Black, contact Jason Clarke at (305) 443.8980 or email jasonclarke@hotmail.com.

Today, the Bay Point Schools counts on the \$400,000 annual fundraising from Lea's team. "I'm lucky that I have the talent, resources and energy to fundraise and just do it. What else am I going to do - sit at the pool and get my nails done? I can't understand people who have become successful and don't want to help out the future of the world in the hands of self-sufficient youth," she says.

It's not always easy running a charity, which, like any business, has its ups and downs. Organizing a major event and paying meticulous attention to detail is Lea's strongpoint. When business is bad, kids lose out - so Lea makes sure her "company" is always on the up.

Her biggest supporter, her husband Roy, is a founding partner of the Miami-based firm Black, Srebnick, Kornspan & Stumpf, PA., which focuses on criminal defense and civil litigation matters and represents clients around the country on charges including murder, drug smuggling, sexual assault, securities fraud, money laundering, Internet sex crimes, mail fraud and tax evasion.

Best known for his successful defense of William Kennedy Smith, Black also achieved notoriety by successfully defending Eller Media in charges stemming from the bus-bench electrocution of a 12-year-old boy in Miami and representing Albertson's, Inc., when the state of Florida charged the Fortune 500 company with manslaughter in the death of a shoplifter.

Black's other well-known clients include television sports commentator Marv Albert, Hollywood actor Kelsey Grammer, and pop artist Peter Max. Additionally, Black was most recently retained to defend former WorldCom CFO, Scott Sullivan.

While Roy maintains his full-time law practice, he has joined the NBC network as their legal analyst for NBC News, MSNBC and CNBC. "Roy's insights and strengths as a trial lawyer have always proven to be extremely effective and beneficial to our coverage," said NBC President, Neil Shapiro. "Having him on our team is a huge advantage for NBC News with so many significant trials taking place in the near future."

"I enjoy sharing my legal experience with NBC viewers around the world," said

Roy. "Never before have we had so many high profile cases that have captured the public's attention. It is important that the public sees and understands how the legal system works," he said.

With a strong head for business, Lea frequently assists Roy's practice, even serving as a confidant to many of the families whom Roy represents. She's even been known to strategize with him on public statements. Originally from Texas, Lea moved to South Florida in the mid 1980's and sat on the jury of the William Kennedy Smith case. A year later she ran into Roy one evening. They started talking and eventually began dating. Today, the Blacks have been married for over 10 years and are known as one of South Florida's most influential power couples. At home they entertain a lot together for business and charity. "If we have nothing official to attend, we like to just hang out at home," says Lea.

Upon arriving at the historical home in Coral Gables, the circular driveway takes you to the steps of the house. "We have maintained the architectural integrity of our Mediterranean old-world home," says Lea. The exterior and interior use of Coral Rock allows for a blend of eclectic interiors including Biedermeier furniture, a gothic dining room, comfortable cozy bar and lounge area, as well as an art deco room. The downstairs includes lots of marble and walnut & cherry hardwood floors accented with Versace rugs.

Upstairs is Roy's library /office that exudes the richness of knowledge with more books than the room can hold. "It's crammed so tightly with books that I have used the books to decorate with throughout the house," says Lea. Roy's passion for books includes an eclectic collection from Dickens, Winston Churchill, Hugo, Clancy and Grisham, to world wars and politics. Black is the noted author of "Black's Law," a book that recounts the strategies and tactics he employed to safeguard the freedom of four clients. He's currently writing his 2nd book on the topic of "sex". Although the title hasn't been released, the book discusses the use of sex as a weapon to extort money. Lea completes the home tour by saying, "The

master bedroom is very sexy - its Hollywood glamorous layered with silk fabric, and the baby's room is all about Toys-R-Us."

This year, the Blacks will once again use their home as a backdrop for the Baypoint gala. The event will begin inside the home's 1,500 sq. ft. courtyard / ballroom with a champagne reception. The courtyard's warm and airy decor features 24 ft. ceilings, coral rock walls, natural skylight, an antique baby grand piano and a fabulous Baccarat chandelier backdrop.

The event will then flow poolside where well-known area restaurants and eateries such as The Forge, Tuscan Steakhouse, China Grill, Macaluso's and Inter-Continental Hotel all donate their tasty gourmet attractions followed by dancing and the highly anticipated luxury auction.

The gala's theme this year is RAIN, after last year's weather. "Our 400 guests were gracious because it didn't just rain - it was like a monsoon. So, this year we're delivering Donald J Pliner umbrellas to all the past attendees and having many auction items that tie into the theme - such as things to do in the rain," she says.

"Our fundraiser is completely different from any other because we provide an environment for Federal judges, political activists, South Beach hip, celebrities, party gurus, and socialites to co-mingle. It's a very interesting mix of people that come together and meet," says Lea. Over the years, national names have supported the Black's efforts with their personal appearances on gala night including World Series players and heavyweight boxing champions, as well as Oscar and Grammy winners.

If you're one of the VIP's (This means you have paid at least \$2,500 per couple or host a table for 10 at \$10,000) your "George Slover" TO-GO gift bag awaits. The bag features a value of \$1,500 in gifts such as champagne, vodka, cognac, cosmetics, SOBE restaurant gift certificates and even "parties for 10." If that's not enough to get you intrigued to join the Black's "inner circle," maybe it's the after party at Prive (located inside Opium) that will get you hooked - where, Lea says, "the party is just beginning."